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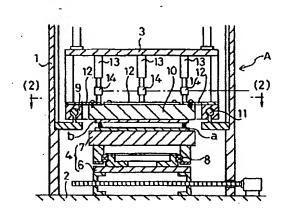
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(54) 【発明の名称】 液晶表示板用ガラス基板の貼り合せ装置

(57)【要約】

【目的】 液晶表示板用ガラス基板の貼り合せを行う上定盤。下定盤の平坦度及び組み付け時の平行度、更にガラス基板における平行度にパラつきがあってもそれらの影響を無くして高精度の平行度を有する貼り合せを行うことができる貼り合せ装置を提供すること。

【構成】 機枠1の下側に固定台板2が設けられ、その固定台板2の上方に可動台板3が上下動自在に取付けられ、且つ前配固定台板2の上に下定盤4を、可動台板3の下に上定盤5が夫々水平方向に移動可能に取付けられたガラス基板の貼り合せ装置において、上記上定盤5を固定外枠9と外枠9内に位置する可動定盤部10とで構成し、その可動定盤部10は固定外枠9と平面方向は剛性を持ち、鉛直方向は可換性を有する連結部材12で連結し、可動定盤部12の周囲複数箇所に加圧手段13を装備すると共に、その加圧箇所におけるガラス基板a, b間のギャップを検出する検出手段14, 15を設け、その検出手段の検出値によって加圧手段13の加圧力を制御する。



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【特許請求の範囲】

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は液晶表示板を構成するガラス基板(上下電極板)の貼り合わせ装置に関し、詳しくは貼り合せたガラス基板における内側面の平行度を向上する貼り合せ装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】液晶表示板(LCD)は、透明導電性電極をコートした2枚のガラス基板間に数μmのスペーサを用いてシール材の内側に液晶を封入したもので、その2枚のガラス基板は位置合せマークによって狂いなく貼り合せられている。そして、2枚のガラス基板の貼り合せを行う従来の貼り合せ装置は、図6に示すように金属製平板で構成された下定盤16が固定台板17に、上定盤18が可動台板19に大々水平方向に移動可能に取付けられ、可動台板19に大々水平方向に移動可能に取付けられ、可動台板19の下降によって2枚のガラス基板 a, bを加圧し、ガラス基板 a, b間のシール材 c を所定の厚さに潰し、ガラス基板 a, b間のシール材 c を所定の厚さに潰して液晶を封入する空間を区画するというものである。【0003】しかも、上記の加圧は加圧前約30μあったシール材を6~8μまで潰し、ガラス基板の内側面間のギャップを均一にして平行度を上げるようにしている。【0004】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】上記した従来の貼り合せ装置によってガラス基板内側面の平行度をだすための必要条件(±0.1 μレベルの)としては、(1)上定盤,下定盤の平坦度(各定盤の表面の平坦度)を上げ、上・下定盤を台板に対して組み付けた時の平行度を上げる、(2)ガラス基板の平行度を良くする(実状は15~20μあると言われている)の二つの方法が挙げられる。

【0005】しかしながら、現実には(1)及び(2)とも充分に満足できる状況では無く、その結果貼り合せを完了した2枚のガラス基板間のギャップは均一になりにくく、それにより液晶表示板として完成されたものは色むらを生じるといった問題点を有する。尚、上述した(1)における上定盤、下定盤の平坦度のバラつき、及び組み付け時のバラつきによる影響を多少なりとも少なくする手段として完整とせるス基板との間にづかシート等の短

衡材を介在する方法が考えられているが、これらによっ ても充分満足できる平行度が得られないのが実状であ -

【0006】本発明は上述したような従来の技術が有する問題点に鑑みてなされたもので、その目的とするところは上定盤、下定盤の平坦度及び組み付け時の平行度、 更にガラス基板における平行度にバラつきがあってもそれらの影響を無くして高精度の平行度を有する貼り合せを行うことができる貼り合せ装置を提供することにあ

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記の目的を達成する為に本発明が離じた技術的手段は、機枠の下側に固定台板が設けられ、その固定台板の上方に可動台板が上下動自在に取付けられ、且つ前記固定台板の上に下定盤を、可動台板の下に上定盤が夫々水平方向に移動可能に取付けられたガラス基板の貼り合せ装置において、上記上定盤を固定外枠と外枠内に位置する可動定盤部とで構成し、その可動定盤部は固定外枠と平面方向は剛性を持ち、鉛直方向は可撓性を有する連結部材で連結し、可動定盤部の周囲複数箇所に加圧手段を装備すると共に、その加圧箇所におけるガラス基板間のギャップを検出する検出手段を設け、その検出手段の検出値によって加圧手段を制御することを特徴とする。

【0008】上記の可動定盤部と固定外枠とを連結する連結部材の取付け位置は、可動定盤部の上面、定盤部の厚さ方向の中間部、或いは定盤部の下面等のいずれの位置でも良く、又連結部材としてはパネ鋼、その他の可撓性材料が挙げられる。

【0009】更に、ガラス基板間のギャップを検出する 検出手段としては、加圧箇所の上下変動量(歪み量)を 検出するロードセル、或いは2枚のガラス基板間のギャップを倒方から直接監視して検出するギャップメータ等 が挙げられる。

[0010]

【作用】上記した手段によれば、上定盤が固定外枠と可助定盤部とで構成され、その可動定盤部は固定外枠に対して平面方向は剛性を持ち、鉛直方向は可撓性を有する連結部材で連結されているため、2枚のガラス基板を貼り合せるために可動定盤部を複数箇所の加圧手段を作動させて下降させると、その加圧手段の加圧力に応じて下降量が異なる。それにより、加圧箇所の歪み量の変動を監視したり、ギャップメータの検出値をフィードバックさせて加圧手段の加圧力を制御することで2枚のガラス基板間のギャップ(平行度)を均一化することができる。

[00]1]

における上定盤、下定盤の平坦度のパラつき、及び組み 付け時のパラつきによる影響を多少なりとも少なくする 手段として定盤とガラス基板との間にゴムシート等の緩 50 固定された固定台板2と、その固定台板2の上方に配置 .3

された可動台板3とから成り、固定台板2上には下側の ガラス基板aを載承保持する下定盤4が設けられ、可動 台板3の下には上側のガラス基板bを吸着保持する上定 盤5が設けられている。

【0012】固定台板2上に取付けられる下定盤4は、固定台板2上をY方向に摺動する下部材6と、その下部材6上に取付けられて水平回動する上部材7とで構成され、下部材6は固定台板2上に起立固定された2本の平行な案内手を介して摺動可能に支持されている。又、下部材6に対して回転可能に支持される上部材7はペアリ 10ング8を介在して支持されている。

【0013】可動台盤3の下方に支持される上定盤5は、平面形状が正方形をなした環状の固定外枠9とその固定外枠9の内側に位置する平板状の可動定盤部10とで構成し、固定外枠9は機枠1に固定したガイドレール11に嵌合係着してX方向に移動調整可能とされ、そうした固定外枠9の水平方向内側に可動定盤部10が配置されると共に、固定外枠9と可動定盤部10とは平面方向は剛性を持ち、鉛直方向は可撓性を有するバネ鋼等の連結部材12を用いて四辺が連結されている。

【0014】上記の連結部材12は固定外枠9の上面と可動定盤部10の上面とに亘って架設固定され、可動定盤部10の周辺における連結部材12が連結された辺の略中央位置に加圧手段13が夫々固定されると共に、その加圧手段の取付箇所には加圧による上下方向の変位量(歪み)を検出するロードセル等の変位計14が取付けられ、その変位計の検出値が加圧手段にフィードバックされて加圧力が制御されるようになっている。

【0015】図4及び図5は二枚のガラス基板 a, bの貼り合わせにおいて内面間の間隔を検出しながら貼り合 30 わせを行う装置の実施例を示し、機枠1側にガラス基板の内面間隔を監視するギャップメータ15が該ガラス基板を包囲するように配置固定され、その各ギャップメータ15の検出値がフィードバックされて可動定盤部10に対する各加圧手段の加圧力が制御されるようにしてある。尚、図4及び図5においてギャップメータ15以外の構成は前示実施例で示したと同じ構成であるためそれらの構成については説明を省略する。又、上述した上定盤5における可動定盤部10のガラス基板 b と当接する面には真空吸引力が作用する通孔が形成され、その通孔は真空ポ 40ンプに接続されて可動定盤部10に上側のガラス基板を吸着保持する吸着力が働くようにしてある。

【0016】上述した貼り合せ装置によって二枚のガラス基板の貼り合わせを行う場合、可動定盤部10を加圧手段13によって下方に押し下げると固定外枠9に対して鉛直方向に可撓性を有する連結部材12で連結された可動定板部10はその加圧手段13の加圧力に応じて押し下げられ、それによりガラス基板a, bの貼り合せの加圧力も

全面に均一に掛らず、加圧力の強弱に応じて差が生じる。従って、各加圧手段の加圧力を変位計14で検出し、その検出値を基に加圧手段の加圧力を調整制御することにより二枚のガラス基板 a, bの内面間のギャップ(平行度)を均一にすることが出来る。

【0017】又、図4及び図5の貼り合せ装置にあっては貼り合せられる二枚のガラス基板a, bの内面間のギャップがガラス基板の外方周囲に配置したギャップメータ15で監視検出し、その検出値に応じて該当箇所の加圧手段の加圧力を強弱調整することで貼り合せられる二枚のガラス基板a, bの内面間のギャップ(平行度)を均一にすることが出来る。

[0018]

【発明の効果】本発明の貼り合せ装置は以上詳述したように、上定盤を固定外枠と外枠内に位置する可動定盤部とで構成し、その可動定盤部は固定外枠と平面方向は剛性を持ち、鉛直方向は可撓性を有する連結部材で連結し、可動定盤部の周囲複数箇所に加圧手段を装備すると共に、その加圧箇所におけるガラス基板間のギャップを20 検出する検出手段を設け、その検出手段の検出値によって加圧手段を制御するように構成したものであるから、ガラス基盤を圧着する可動定盤部の周囲の加圧力を強弱調整することが出来る。従って、上下定板の表面の平坦度、或いはそれら定板を組み付けた時の平行度、更にはガラス基板(ワーク)の平行度等にバラつきがあってもそれらの影響を無くし、ガラス基板の内面間のギャップ(平行度)を均一にして向上させることが出来る。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の貼り合せ装置の一実施例を示す縦断正面図である。

【図2】図1の(2)—(2)線に沿える横断面図である。

【図3】可動定盤部を加圧手段で加圧した状態の縦断正 面図である。

【図4】本発明の貼り合せ装置の他の実施例を示す縦断 正面図である。

【図5】図4の(5) - (5) 線に沿える横断面図である.

【図6】従来の貼り合せ装置を示す縦断正面図である。 【符号の説明】

A…貼り合せ装置

1…機枠

2…固定台板

3…可動台板

4…下定盤

5…上定盤

9…固定外枠

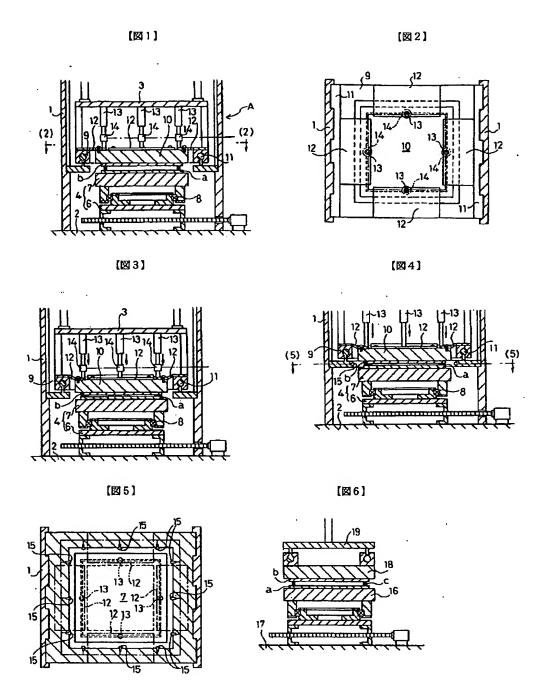
10…可動定盤部

12…連結部材

13…加圧手段

14…検出手段(変位計、ギャップメータ)

a, b…ガラス基板



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LAMINATING DEVICE FOR GLASS SUBSTRATE FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL

15 **DISPLAY BOARD**

[Abstract]

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PURPOSE: To provide the laminating device which can execute lamination having a degree of parallelisum of high accuracy by eliminating the influence exerted by variances even if there are the variances in a degree of flatness of the upper surface plate and the lower surface plate for laminating glass substrates for a liquid crystal display board and a degree of parallelisum at the time of assembling them, and also, a degree of parallelisum in the glass substrates.

CONSTITUTION: In the laminating device for glass substrates, in which a fixed baseplate 2 is provided on the lower side of a machine frame 1, a movable baseplate 3 is attached to the upper part of its fixed baseplate 2 so that its vertical motion is executed freely, and also, the lower surface plate 4, and the upper surface plate 5 are attached so as to be movable in the horizontal direction, on the fixed baseplate 2 and under the movable baseplate 3, respectively, the upper surface plate 5 is constituted of a fixed outer frame 9 and a movable surface plate part 10 positioned in the outer frame 9, its movable surface plate part 10 is connected to the fixed outer frame 9 by a connecting member 12 having rigidity in the plane direction, and having flexibility in the vertical direction, a pressure means 13 is provided in plural parts in the periphery of the movable surface plate part 10, and also, detecting means 14, 15 for detecting a gap between glass substrates (a), (b) in its pressure part are provided, and pressure force of the pressure means 13 is controlled by a detected value of its detecting means.

[Claims]

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1. A laminating device of glass substrates for a liquid crystal display panel in which a fixed base plate is provided on a lower portion of a machine frame, a movable base plate is installed at an upper portion of the fixed base plate to be movable freely in a longitudinal direction, and a lower surface plate and an upper surface plate are attached on the fixed base plate and under the movable base plate, respectively, so as to be movable in a horizontal direction, wherein the upper surface plate includes a fixed outer frame and a movable surface plate part 10 positioned in the outer frame, the movable surface plate part is connected to the fixed outer frame by a connecting member having rigidity in a horizontal direction and flexibility in a vertical direction, a pressurizing unit is provided in plural parts in the circumference of the movable surface plate part, a detecting unit for detecting a gap between glass substrates is provided at the pressurized portion, and the pressurizing unit is controlled by a detected value of the detecting unit.

[Title of the Invention]

LAMINATING DEVICE FOR GLASS SUBSTRATE FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY BOARD

5 [Detailed Description of the Invention]

[Field of the Invention]

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The present invention is related to a laminating device of glass substrates (upper and lower electrode substrates) configuring a liquid crystal display panel, and more particularly, to a laminating device having improved parallelism of an inner side surface of a bonded glass substrate.

[Description of the Prior Art]

In a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel, a liquid crystal is sealed in an inner side of a sealant using spacers of several µm between two glass substrates on which a transparent conductive electrode is coated and thus the two glass substrates are bonded without misalignment by an aligning mark. Fig. 6 shows a conventional laminating device performing a bonding of two glass substrates. As shown in the drawing, a lower surface plate 16 made of a metal plane plate and an upper surface plate 18 are installed to be movable at a fixed base plate 17 and a movable base plate 19, respectively, in a longitudinal direction. The movable base plate 19 lowers to pressurize two glass substrates (a) and (b). A sealant (c) between the two substrates (a) and (b) are pressurized until forming a particular thickness, thereby partitioning a space for sealing a liquid crystal.

The pressurization is performed by pressing the sealant having about 30µ before the pressurization into 6 to 8µ and making a gap between inner side

surfaces of the glass substrates uniform to thereby increase parallelism.

[Problems to be Solved by the Invention]

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In order to provide a parallelism of the inner side surfaces of the glass substrates by the conventional laminating device under a condition of a level of \pm 0.1 μ , two methods are provided, namely, (1) one method for increasing parallelism when upper and lower surface plates are assembled with base plates by increasing flatness of the upper and lower surface plates (i.e., the flatness of face of each surface plate), and (2) the other method for improving the parallelism of glass substrates (i.e., indeed, corresponding to 15 to 20 μ).

However, the satisfactory parallelism may be difficult to be obtained using the two methods. As a result, the gap between two glass substrates completely bonded with each other may not be uniform, and thus a color stain may occur in the liquid crystal display panel having completely formed. Furthermore, in the one method (1), in order to reduce influence by misalignment of the upper and lower surface plates and ununiformity at the time of bonding with each other, a buffer such as a rubber sheet is inserted between the surface plate and the glass substrate. However, it is also difficult to obtain the satisfactory parallelism.

Thus, to solve the aforementioned problems of the prior art, the present invention provides a laminating device capable of performing the bonding process having parallelism with high accuracy without any influence by ununiformities in flatness of the upper and lower surface plates, parallelism at the time of bonding with each other, and parallelism of glass substrates.

[Means for Solving the Problem]

To achieve the above object of the present invention, there is provided a laminating device of glass substrates in which a fixed base plate is provided on a lower portion of a machine frame, a movable base plate is installed at an upper portion of the fixed base plate to be movable freely in a longitudinal direction, and a lower surface plate and an upper surface plate are attached on the fixed base plate and under the movable base plate, respectively, so as to be movable in a horizontal direction, wherein the upper surface plate includes a fixed outer frame and a movable surface plate part 10 positioned in the outer frame, the movable surface plate part is connected to the fixed outer frame by a connecting member having rigidity in a horizontal direction and flexibility in a vertical direction, a pressurizing unit is provided in plural parts in the circumference of the movable surface plate part, a detecting unit for detecting a gap between glass substrates is provided at the pressurized portion, and the pressurizing unit is controlled by a detected value of the detecting unit.

The connecting member for connecting the movable surface plate part with the fixed outer frame can be positioned anywhere of on an upper surface of the movable surface plate part, in the middle portion of a thickness direction of the movable surface plate part, on a lower surface of the movable surface plate part, and the like. The connecting member can be formed of spring steel, or other flexible materials.

Furthermore, as the detecting unit for detecting the gap between the glass substrates, a load cell for detecting a varied degree (ununiform degree) of a gap between the pressurized glass substrates in upper and lower directions, and a gap meter for detecting the gap between the two glass substrates by directly monitoring from its lateral direction.

[Operation]

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According to those units, the upper surface plate includes the fixed outer frame and the movable surface plate part. The movable surface plate part is connected to the fixed outer frame by the connecting member having rigidity in its horizontal direction and flexibility in its vertical direction. Accordingly, when the movable surface plate part lowers by operating the pressurizing unit positioned in the plurality parts of the movable surface plate part, the lowered degree is different according to a pressurizing force of the pressurizing unit. As a result, a variation of the ununiform degree of the pressurized portion is monitored, or the pressurizing force of the pressurizing unit is controlled by feedbacking the detected value of the gap meter, so as to obtain uniformity of the gap (parallelism) between the two glass substrates.

15 [Embodiment of the Invention]

Hereinafter, explanations will be provided for embodiments of the present invention with reference to the drawings. A boding apparatus A includes a machine frame 1, a fixed base plate 2 fixed to an inner lower portion of the machine frame 1, and a movable base plate 3 arranged at an upper side of the fixed base plate 2. A lower surface plate 4 for supporting a lower glass substrate (a) is provided on the fixed base plate 2, and an upper surface plate 5 for absorbing and maintaining an upper glass substrate (b) is provided under the movable base plate 3.

The lower surface plate 4 positioned on the fixed base plate 2 includes a lower member 6 sliding on the fixed base plate 2 in a Y-direction, and an upper member 7 provided on the lower member 6, for rotating horizontally. The lower

member 6 is supported to be slidable by two guiding arms fixed on the fixed base plate 2 in an upright state, the guiding arms being positioned between the lower member 6 and the fixed base plate 2. The upper member 7 is rotatably supported by the lower member 6 in a state that bearings 8 are interposed between the lower and upper base plates 6 and 7.

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The upper surface plate 5 supported below the movable base plate 3 includes an annular fixed outer frame 9 with a square plane surface, and a movable base plate part 10 of a flat plate shape positioned in an inner side of the fixed outer frame 9. The fixed outer frame 9 is coupled to a guide rail 11 fixed to the machine frame 1 to be movable in an X-direction. The movable base plate part 10 is provided in the fixed outer frame 9 in a horizontal direction. The fixed outer frame 9 and the movable base plate part 10 are connected in their four edges using a connecting member 12 formed of spring steel having rigidity in its horizontal direction and flexibility in its vertical direction.

The connecting member 12 is fixed on the surface of the fixed outer frame 9 and the upper surface of the movable base plate part 10. Each pressurizing unit 13 is fixed on a nearly central portion of the circumference of the movable base plate part 10 where the connecting member 12 is connected. A displacement gauge 14 such as a load cell for detecting a varied degree (ununiform degree) of a gap between two pressurized glass substrates in upper and lower directions is provided at each portion where the pressurizing unit is installed. Accordingly, the pressurizing force is controlled by feedbacking a detected value of the displacement gauge 14 to the pressurizing unit.

Figs. 4 and 5 show embodiments of the apparatus for detecting an interval between inner surfaces of two glass substrates (a) and (b) and performing their

bonding. Gap meters 15 for monitoring the interval between the inner surfaces of the two glass substrates (a) and (b) are fixed to the machine frame 1 to surround the glass substrates (a) and (b). Each gap meter 15 feedbacks its detected value to the pressurizing unit and thus the pressurizing force of each pressurized unit with respect to the movable base plate part 10 is controlled. In addition, as shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the gap meter 15 is constructed as same as aforementioned in the embodiment so that an explanation of its construction is omitted. A continuous hole to which a vacuum suction force is applied is formed in a surface at which the upper surface plate 5 is contact with the upper glass substrate (b) of the movable base plate part 10 is applied thereto. The continuous hole is connected to a vacuum pump and thus an absorption force for absorbing the glass substrate (b) on the movable base plate part 10.

When two glass substrates are bonded using the laminating device having explained, if the movable base plate part 10 is pressurized downwardly by the pressurizing unit 13, the movable base plate part 10 connected to the fixed outer frame 9 by the connecting member 9 having flexibility in its vertical direction is pressurized by the pressurizing force of each pressurizing unit 13. As a result, the glass substrates (a) and (b) are bonded by the pressurizing force which is not uniformly applied on the entire surfaces thereof, so as to be ununiformly bonded according to the strength of the pressurizing force. Therefore, the pressurizing force of each pressurizing unit 13 is detected by the displacement gauge 14, to control the pressurizing force of the pressurizing unit 13 on the basis of the detected value, so that the gap (parallelism) between inner surfaces of the two glass substrates (a) and (b) can be uniform.

Furthermore, in the laminating device shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the gap

between the two glass substrates (a) and (b) to be bonded is monitored and detected by the gap meter 15 arranged at the outer circumference of the glass substrates (a) and (b). The strength of the pressurizing force of the pressurizing unit 13 in the corresponding portion is adjusted according to the detected value. Hence, the gap (parallelism) between the inner surfaces of the two glass substrates (a) and (b) to be bonded can be uniform.

[Effect of the Invention]

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As described so far, in the laminating device according to the present invention, the upper surface plate includes the fixed outer frame and the movable base plate part positioned in the fixed outer frame, and the movable base plate part is connected to the fixed outer frame by the connecting member having rigidity in its horizontal direction and flexibility in its vertical direction. The pressurizing unit is installed in plural positions in the circumference of the movable base plate part, a detecting unit for detecting the gap between glass substrates is installed in the pressurized portions by the pressurizing units, and accordingly the pressurizing unit is controlled by the detected value obtained by the detecting unit. Hence, the strength of the pressurized force in the circumference of the movable base plate part, by which the glass substrates are bonded with each other, can be adjusted. Therefore, even if there are ununiformities in flatness of the surfaces of upper and lower surface plates, flatness when assembling the surface plates, and parallelism of the glass substrates, the gap (parallelism) between the inner surfaces of the glass substrates can be uniform, free from the influence by the ununiformities.

[Brief Description for the Drawing]

- Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view showing an embodiment of the laminating device according to the present invention.
 - Fig. 2 is a horizontal sectional view taken along the line (2)-(2) of Fig. 1.
- Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the state that a movable base plate part is pressurized by a pressurizing unit.
 - Fig. 4 is a longitudinal sectional view showing another embodiment of the laminating device according to the present invention.
 - Fig. 5 is a horizontal sectional view taken along the line (5)-(5) of Fig. 4.
- Fig. 6 is a longitudinal sectional view showing the conventional laminating device.

[Explanation for Reference Symbol]

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A-laminating device, 1-machine frame, 2-fixed base plate, 3-movable base plate, 4-lower surface plate, 5-upper surface plate, 9-fixed outer frame, 10-movable base plate part, 12-connecting member, 13-pressurizing unit, 14-detecting unit (displacement gauge, gap meter), a, b- glass substrate